

PSYC 3302 B : POSITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

Instructor	John Zelenski
Term	Winter 2024
Course Delivery	In-Person
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Office Hours	TBD

COURSE DESCRIPTION/INSTRUCTORS STATEMENT

The positive psychology movement has helped restore balance to mainstream psychological science that has often focused on pathology and undesirable facets of human nature (e.g., mental illness, cognitive errors, traumatic experience, prejudice, aggression). Most people are happy most of the time; human cognition usually produces correct or adaptive responses; resilience is common, not exceptional. To better understand *typical* experience and functioning, we must understand strengths, pleasurable states, accomplishment, pro-social behaviour, and mental health. This course will survey research and theory on these topics, cutting across traditional sub-disciplines such as personality, social, developmental, cognitive, and health psychology. Although the focus of this class will be psychological research, there will be some opportunity for personal reflection and application.

By the end of the course, students should develop 1) an understanding of the methods positive psychologists use to create knowledge, 2) a familiarity with the major theories and findings in positive psychology, 3) greater skill in finding, understanding, and synthesizing primary source material in psychology, and 4) a better understanding of their personal well-being.

EVALUATION

Evaluation will likely include exams (multiple choice), a series of small writing assignments, and one major writing assignment that will require some independent searching, reading, planning, and synthesis.

TEXT:

*Zelenski, J. (2019). *Positive Psychology: The Science of Well-Being*. SAGE Publishing. ISBN: 9781473902152

*We will definitely use this book (1st edition) in the Fall term. It is *possible* that availability will dictate moving to 2nd edition for Winter, but this remains uncertain. Please wait for confirmation on the Brightspace course page before purchasing your Winter term book.